

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Note: The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

A. BLM Office: Klamath Falls R.A., OR-014 **Lease/Serial/Case File No.**

Proposed Action Title/Type: Renewal of the BLM Grazing Lease for the Flesher allotment, #0820.

Location of Proposed Action: Flesher grazing allotment, approximately 160 acres of public land located on the southeast end of Stukel Mountain. Located within T40S, R11E, Section 33 E½ NE¼ and Section 34 W½ NW¼ (see attached map).

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is a renewal of the BLM grazing lease for the Flesher allotment, #0820, in accordance with 43 CFR 4100.0-8, 4110.1, 4130.2, and 4130.3. The lease would be issued to Pope Ranches, Inc., the current leaseholder and owner of the recognized base property for the allotment. The term of the lease would be from March 1, 2003 through February 28, 2013. The lease would authorize 16 AUMs of use by cattle from May 1 through July 31.

Applicant (if any): Pope Ranches, Inc.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: **Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS) dated September 1994)**

Date Approved: **June 1995 via the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS)**

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- The KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS lists the grazing parameters for the Flesher allotment on page H-24 of Appendix H. The listed parameters show a season-of-use for the allotment of 5/1–6/15. This is different than the proposed action of 5/1–7/31. The proposed action season-of-use is the same as the No Action from the RMP/EIS. The ROD/RMP/RPS season-of-use was a proposal based upon preliminary interpretation of conditions on the allotment. In order to implement this season-of-use or a similar one, changes must be based upon an evaluation of monitoring data in an interdisciplinary allotment evaluation or through a Rangeland Health Standards Assessment in accordance with 43 CFR 4180. This process is outlined in the ROD/RMP/RPS on page 62, Grazing Management, Management Action/Directions, General. “Adjust grazing use (including, but not limited to, changes in season-of-use, kinds and classes of livestock, numbers of animals, grazing capacity, management facilities needed) based on and supported by the ongoing range land studies performed in accordance with the above guidance. Review the results of these studies by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists through the allotment evaluation process. Recommend future management actions (in consultation, coordination, and cooperation with the affected interests) to the Area Manager for review, modification, and/or approval. When necessary, implement changes in permitted use through written agreement or decision.” A Rangeland Health Standards Assessment is scheduled for this allotment in FY 2006. Thus, the proposed season-of-use is in conformance with the LUP until this assessment is completed.
- The ROD/RMP/RPS states on page 62, Grazing Management, Objectives, “Provide for livestock grazing in an environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with other objectives and land use allocations. Resolve resource conflicts and concerns and insure that livestock grazing use is consistent with the objectives and direction found in Appendix H (Grazing Management)”.
- The ROD/RMP/RPS states on page 62, Grazing Management, Land Use Allocations, “Provide for initial levels of livestock grazing within the parameters outlined, by allotment, in Appendix H”.

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

LUP Name: **Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and**

**Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS) dated
September 1994)**

Date Approved: **June 1995 via the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision
and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary
(KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS)**

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard's assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

None

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

The proposed action is consistent with and the same as the grazing management identified in the RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative except that the season-of-use is different as outlined under **A** and **B** above. The new grazing lease parameters, however, fall within the parameters defined by the RMP/EIS. Environmental impacts of grazing, for all allotments, are found in Chapter 4 – “Environmental Consequences” (4-1 through 4-143) of the RMP/EIS.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

The proposed action lies within the range of various alternatives identified and analyzed in the KFRA RMP/EIS (summarized in table S-1 “Comparisons of Allocations and Management by Alternative”, pages 18-50; and S-2 “Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative”, pages 52-53). This array and range of alternatives included the No Action alternative (status quo); five other alternatives (A through E) that covered a span of management from a strong emphasis on commodities production to a strong emphasis on resource protection/preservation; and the PRMP that emphasizes a balanced approach of producing an array of socially valuable products within the concept of ecosystem management. Since this plan is relatively recent (1995), it more than adequately reflects “current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values”.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

A review was conducted to determine if any new information, studies, and analyses were available that would provide data that would materially differ from the data in the earlier analyses performed in the RMP, ROD, FEIS, and DEIS documents noted above. The following was found:

- No new information was found.
- No rangeland monitoring studies have been performed on this allotment as it is a low priority “C” category allotment and there have been no indications that the allotment has any resource related problems that need monitoring.
- In accordance with 43 CFR 4180, the Klamath Falls Resource Area is in the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management. A “Rangeland Health Standards Assessment” is scheduled for completion on this allotment during FY2006. This assessment will ascertain whether the allotment is meeting, not meeting, or making significant progress towards meeting the 5 Standards for Rangeland Health. Rangeland monitoring may be performed on this allotment in the future if additional information is deemed necessary to adequately assess the allotment.

The existing analysis and subsequent conclusions in the LUP are still considered valid at this time, including the described and analyzed livestock grazing impacts. It is thus reasonable to conclude that the new information is insignificant with regard to the analysis of the proposed action (lease re-issuance), which falls within the parameters previously analyzed in the LUP.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

The KFRA RMP/EIS, and subsequent ROD/RMP/RPS, designated domestic livestock grazing as a principle or major use for this allotment under the principle of multiple use on a sustained yield basis in accordance with FLPMA. The development of the Proposed Resource Management Plan in the RMP/EIS, as adjusted or affirmed by the ROD/RMP/RPS, meets NEPA standards for impact analysis. The methodology and analyses employed in the RMP/EIS are still considered valid as this planning effort is relatively recent (ROD - June 1995) and considered up to date procedurally. The plan is also “maintained” regularly to keep it current by incorporating new information, updating for new policies and procedures, and correcting errors as they are found. In addition, all the rangeland monitoring, studies, and survey methods utilized in the resource area prior to and during the planning process continue to be accepted (or required) BLM methods and procedures.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

The proposed action is essentially the same action as was analyzed by the existing NEPA documents cited throughout this document. The direct and indirect impacts of livestock grazing on this allotment were analyzed in most of the major sections of Chapter 4 – “Environmental Consequences” in the RMP/EIS. No new information has been discovered that would indicate that the previous analysis of impacts would change substantially.

During the pre-RMP process in 1990-91, a series of IDT meetings were held to specifically address the formulation of objectives for every grazing allotment in the KFRA. These objectives were based on the monitoring (or related) data collected, past allotment categorization efforts (1982, as subsequently revised), as well as professional judgment based on field observations up to that time. No specific objectives were listed for the Flesher allotment in the RMP/EIS. However, the proposed change in the season-of-use from 5/1-7/31 to 5/1-6/15 resulted from these meetings. As noted above under **B.**, in order to implement this season-of-use or a similar one, changes must be based upon an evaluation of monitoring data in an interdisciplinary allotment evaluation or through a Rangeland Health Standards Assessment in accordance with 43 CFR 4180. A Rangeland Health Standards Assessment is scheduled for this allotment in FY 2006. Thus, the proposed season-of-use is in conformance with the LUP until this assessment is completed.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The proposed action as analyzed in the PRMP of the KFRA RMP/EIS, as affirmed or adjusted by the ROD/RMP/RPS, would not change analysis of cumulative impacts. Any adverse cumulative impacts are the same as and within the parameters of those identified and accepted in that earlier planning effort for this allotments grazing use, since all portions of the proposed action were specifically analyzed in the RMP/EIS. In addition, the analyses in the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICBEMP) have not indicated any cumulative impacts beyond those anticipated in the earlier analyses. (In addition, the ICBEMP, due to its regional approach, does not have the specificity of the RMP.)

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?

The public involvement associated with the NEPA documents referenced above is outlined on pages R-7 and R-8 of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS under Public Involvement. This effort was in

conformance with NEPA and FLPMA and is still considered adequate for the proposed action.

All publics/agencies have also been kept informed of plan implementation through periodic planning update reports (i.e. May 1995, October 1997, February 1999, July 2000, and August 2002). These planning updates, or Annual Program Summaries as they are now called, include information on range program and project accomplishments, updates to the RPS, monitoring accomplishment reports, planned activities for the upcoming year, allotment evaluation and Standards and Guidelines assessments scheduling, and other information necessary to allow for adequate public involvement opportunities.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Name

Title

Dana Eckard

Rangeland Management Specialist/author

Conclusion



Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA

Note: If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.

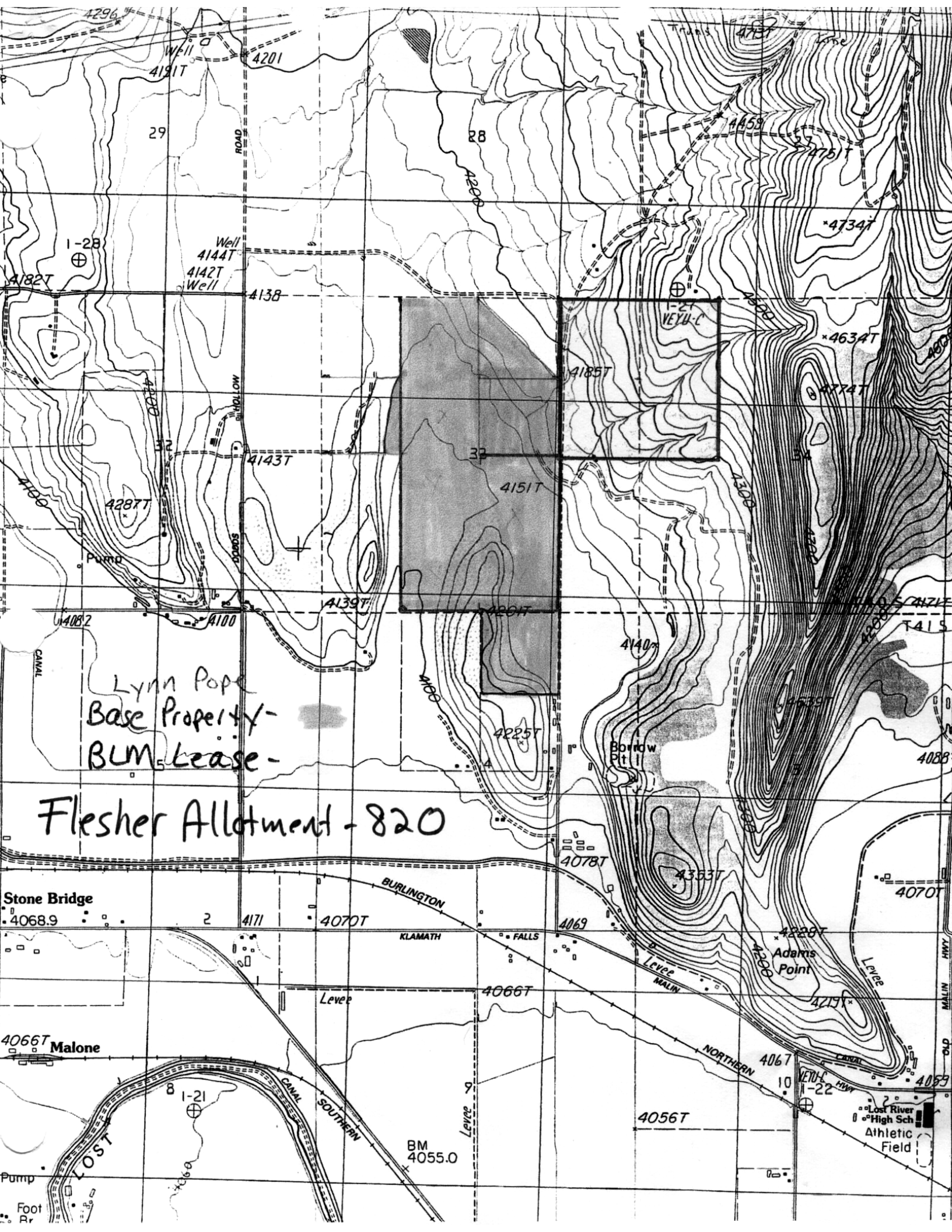


Manager

3/5/03

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.



Lynn Pope
Base Property -
BLM Lease -

Flesher Allotment - 820

Stone Bridge
4068.9

BURLINGTON
KLAMATH

Levee

BM
4055.0

SOUTHERN

NORTHERN

Adams Point

Lost River
High Sch
Athletic Field

DNA-03-04

Klamath Falls Resource Area Project Proposal Routing Slip for Internal Review

Project Name: Flesher Allotment DNA

Date Initiated: _____

Resource or Staff Responsible	Review Priority	Preliminary Review Date/Initials	Comments Attached/Incorporated	Final Review Date/Initials
Manager: Teri Raml	Last			<i>TR</i>
Branch Chief: Barbara Ditman	Second to Last		NONE	<i>BD 3/3/03</i>
Branch Chief: Larry Frazier				
Branch Chief: Mel Crockett				
Planner/EC: Don Hoffheins Kathy Lindsey	Third from Last		_____	<i>KL 3/5/03</i>
Range: Bill Lindsey Range: Dana Eckard	<i>author</i>	_____	NO	<i>BL 2/25</i> <i>DE 2/24/03</i>
Wild Horses: Tonya Pinckney				
Fire/Air Quality: Joe Foran				
Silviculture: Bill Johnson				
Timber: Mike Bechdolt				
Botany/ACEC/Sensitive Plants/Noxious Weeds: Lou Whiteaker		<i>fw 2/25/03</i>	Surveyed in 1994 - no special status plants or target noxious weeds were found.	<i>fw 2/25/03</i>
Soils: T. Cutler				
Cultural: Tim Canaday		<i>TC 2/25/03</i>	Surveyed in 1997 - several sites in allotment - okay as long as there are no improvements planned	<i>TC 2/25/03</i>
Lands/Realty/Minerals/HazMat: Tom Cottingham				
Recreation/Visuals/Wilderness: Scott Senter				
Hydrology/Riparian: Mike Turaski				
Wildlife/T&E: Gayle Sitter		<i>GS 3/04/03</i>		<i>GS 3/04/03</i>
Fisheries/T&E: Scott Snedaker				
W&S Rivers: Grant Weidenbach				
Engineering: Brian McCarty				
Clearances/Surveys	Needed	Done/Attached	<p>*This document will not sit on your desk for more than 8 hours</p> <p>**Some resource areas may not apply for all projects. If so, just mark "N/A" and date reviewed.</p>	
Cultural		<i>TC 2/25/03</i>		
Botanical		<i>fw 2/25/03</i>		
T&E, BA & or Consultation		<i>GS 3/04/03</i>		
404 Permit				
R-O-W Permits				